

Cavalry Employs 2,000 on Project

By Pfc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

AL RASHID, Baghdad, Iraq – The First Cavalry Division broke ground on the Al Boetha landfill,

which will be the largest employment effort in 5th Brigade Combat Teams area of operation. The two-month, \$35 million project, will employ 2,000 Iraqi

workers.

The employees will clear a 3.6 kilometer area for the landfill, build fences, and a road. A portion of the employees will

also dig a canal around the landfill for water runoff. The workers started work on the 60-day project on July 10 and earn \$7 a day.

In an effort to distribute jobs evenly in the area, neighborhood councils (NCs) from six districts provided 200 names to Army civil affairs officials.

On July 5, the employees gathered for their first roll call. In addition to the expected 2,000 employees, 700 additional Iraqis came to the site looking for jobs, said Staff Sgt. Rodney Cox, a civil affairs team sergeant in Company A, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion.

"Word is just spreading that there are jobs available and people are coming to see if they can get a job," said Maj. Luther Webster, a CA team leader, 489th CA Bn.. "We had people come from as far as Sadr City looking for work."

A local Sheik addressed the crowd through a vehicle

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By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Maj. Tony Carroll, a civil military operations officer in the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, motions Iraqis to back up while community leader Sheik Maleek explains to them that there are no jobs left at the Al Boetha landfill site. The \$35 million project will employ 2,000 Iraqis, but more workers showed up at the site than were needed for the project. More than 700 were turned away.

5th BCT Starts Construction on Pump Station

By Spc. Jan Critchfield
122nd MPAD

KARADAH DISTRICT, Baghdad, Iraq—Ceremonies marking the start of construction on a Karadah district pumping station took place July 26.

Originally built to pump rainwater, the station has been handling whatever gets fed to it from other areas of Baghdad—mostly raw sewage.

"This is a pump station that very badly needs to be rehabilitated," said Lt. Col. Brian Dosa, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team's 8th Engineer Battalion. "Two of the pumps have not been working for a long time."

Recently, the last of three pumps installed in the station gave out, flooding the neighborhood with nox-

ious wastewater, up to two feet deep in some areas.

Local community leaders addressed the issue at a weekly meeting, telling an 8th Engineer Battalion representative that fixing the problem is a top priority.

"A wall is going to be built, expanding the area around the pump station. There will be a house for the operator and his family

to live in, structural repairs to the pump house itself, [and] mechanical work. We're going to redo the circuitry and make sure the electrical system works well," Dosa said.

When the renovations are done later this year, they're expected to cost \$174,785 of Commander's Emergency Relief Funds

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Thousands Need Work

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mounted speaker system and told the group that there were no more jobs at the landfill. He also told them they might find employment on future projects at their neighborhood councils.

"In Al Rashid we have put thousands to work in a number of projects; this is just one such project," Webster said. "So we encourage the local populace to see their [neighborhood councils] and get on a

list with them."

It was an unpleasant situation, but when jobs are filled they're filled. However, there is still hope for future employment in these types of projects.

"They want to work and you can't blame them for that," the team sergeant added. "But they just need to understand that the jobs on this particular project are filled, and if they stay tuned to their NAC they can get on a future project."



By Pfc. Al Barrus, 122nd MPAD

Capt. Donald Grant, a 5th Brigade Combat Team information officer, keeps an eye on hundreds of Iraqis looking for work at the Al Boetha landfill project. The project will employ more than 2,000 Iraqis over 60 days.

Thursday

High: 112
Low: 86



Friday

High: 114
Low: 86



Saturday

High: 114
Low: 82

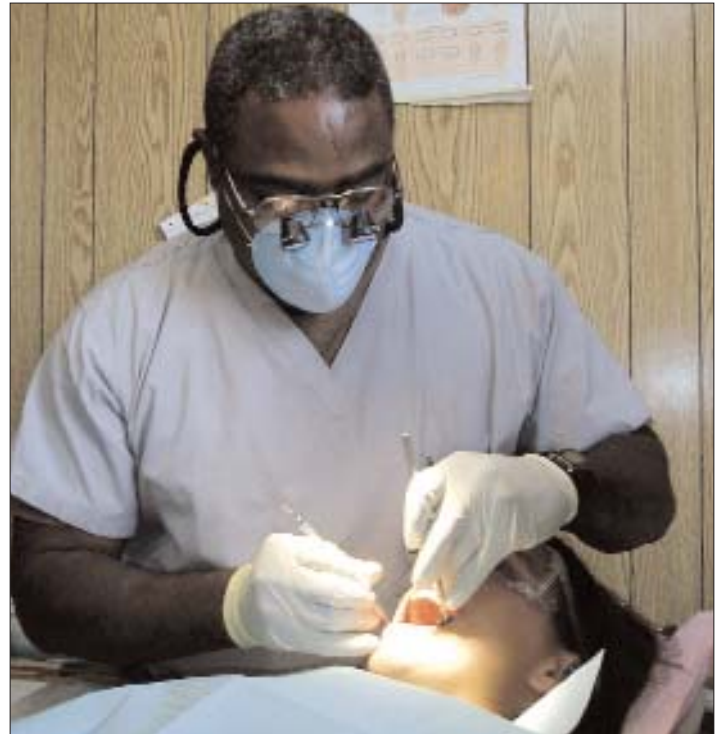


Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

toilet

TWAAlit



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

SAY 'AAAAH!' -- Lt. Col. Milton Smith gets a Soldier's teeth cleaned prior to filling a cavity. Smith runs the dental clinic on Camp Victory North and offered some suggestions for troops regarding dental hygiene. "First, you don't need to have toothpaste to brush your teeth; all you need is a toothbrush and some water," he said. "And for anyone who rides in a humvee -- buy a football mouthpiece. Most of the broken teeth we fix are the result of some bumpy humvee rides."



SAFETY TIP Beat the Heat

- ▶ If you must be out in the heat, limit outdoor activities to early morning and evening hours.
- ▶ If you must work outside, drink two to four glasses of cool fluids each hour.
- ▶ Try to rest often in shady areas.
- ▶ Use sunscreen, SPF-15 or higher.

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Killeen to Get Bigger, Better Air Shuttles

► From *Killeen Daily Herald*

The decision by Continental Airlines to return regional jet service to Killeen will mean one less jet flying from Abilene Regional Airport.

Continental will upgrade one of its six turbo-prop flights, operated locally by SkyWest Airlines, to regional jet services when the new Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport opens Monday. The regional jet will be flown by Continental Express and will be the only regional jet operating in the Killeen market.

Killeen's gain, however, is Abilene's loss. The jet service is being transferred from the Abilene-Houston route to Killeen.

"Killeen has a larger passenger base that's flying Continental," said Rahsaan Johnson, a spokesperson for Continental Airlines. That makes Killeen a more suitable market for



From *Killeen Daily Herald*

Soldiers returning to the Fort Hood area will see larger aircraft and more flights coming into Killeen's new municipal airport, once it opens its doors. Continental Airlines is returning to the area.

Continental's regional jet service, Johnson said.

The switch will not affect the number of flights at either airport, however. Continental will continue to serve Killeen with six daily flights and Abilene will maintain its three-flight schedule, Johnson said. Instead, the switch is about capacity.

Continental served 14,653 outgoing passengers in Killeen during the first five months of the year,

according to statistics from Killeen's aviation department. The figure is more than double the same period in 2003, when 6,269 passengers boarded Continental flights.

Continental's flights, operated locally by SkyWest Airlines, have consistently been overbooked, said Don Christian, Killeen's director of aviation.

The regional jet will hold 50 passengers, a 20-seat increase over the

turbo-props which are currently the only option for Killeen passengers.

Continental Express previously offered regional jet service in Killeen, but terminated the service May 30, 2003, because of difficulties landing the larger planes in hot or inclement weather on the 5,500-foot runway at the Killeen Municipal Airport.

Gray Army Airfield, the site of the new regional airport, has a 10,000-foot runway. The additional length is more accommodating for regional jets, Johnson said.

The surge in enplanements from Killeen is largely a result of economic growth in the region and military traffic, Christian said.

American Eagle, a connection for American Airlines, also has experienced continued growth, though not at the rapid pace seen by Continental Airlines.



Local workers arrange bricks that will be used to construct a new wall

around a pump station being renovated in the Karadah district of Baghdad.

Cavalry Working With Municipalities Creating Jobs

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recovered from the former Iraqi regime.

"Working together with Baghdad's municipalities, we're able to help with the funding and oversight, and selecting the contractors," Dosa said.

"This project is just one of many examples of the municipalities, together with multinational forces, are working to improve the quality of life for the people of Iraq."

By Spc. Jan Critchfield, 122nd MPAD

Trigger Pull:**Win or Lose, Do it with Attitude**

Some do it with attitude. I call it heart. Some of the latest news to come from the sporting pages brings us a wide range of personalities – all handling life's opportunities in very different ways.

On the positive end of the spectrum, there's Lance Armstrong.

The Austin, Texas native made history by winning an unprecedented sixth straight Tour de France bicycle race June 25.

Lance's life has changed considerably since 1999, when he won his first French tour coming back from testicular cancer.

Back then, Armstrong had the support of his wife and kids, and his life could have been a made-for-television movie of the week script. The underdog overcame incredible odds to rise to the top of his chosen profession. It could have been "Rocky" with a Texas drawl. Great stuff.

For his sixth win, Lance is a year removed from a divorce, with his kids watching him conquer Alpine climbs on TV in central Texas. Now, he's got rock star Sheryl Crow in tow.

Armstrong remains on top, and keeps the admiration of the average, everyday sports fan.

He's a class act.

On the flip side of the Armstrong story is the surprising retirement of Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams. Williams made his announcement one week before his teammates are set to report for training camp. Nice.

The 27-year-old former

MSG Dave
Larsen



Sports Buff

workhorse of the Dolphin offense has every right to call it quits. Don't get me wrong on that point. The problem I have with Ricky is this: If you're going to quit, why not let your boss know BEFORE the draft, so the team can plan for the upcoming season?

The timing, or lack thereof, of Williams' announced retirement speaks volumes about him as a person.

Me first – that's what I see.

His desire to stop playing football also follows on the heels of three south Florida newspapers reporting in May that the running back failed a drug test.

No matter what the real reason is for Williams' decision to quit, the fact remains that this guy let down his organization, his coach and his teammates.

Ricky Williams is, definitely, not a class act.

My last featured act for this column is a hometown hero of mine: Brett Favre. In an era of free agency, Favre has routinely restructured his contract to help keep the Green Bay Packers competitive, year after year. (Note to Peyton Manning: When your salary cap numbers on your record-setting contract start to effect the pay roll next year, you may lose some quality offensive linemen, too, in the mass

exodus of free agents looking to get paid.)

Some members of the Wisconsin media hammered the Packer quarterback when he made himself unavailable to their questions following a heart-breaking overtime loss to the Philadelphia Eagles last January.

Favre, if you recall, sent what looked to be a Hail-Mary pass into double coverage that was picked off easily, setting up the game-winning field goal by the Eagles' David Akers.

The Packers' season ended.

While media members were angered by Favre's post-game snub, his fans understood. He's not a good loser.

The real reason I get to write about the Packer great in this column is

because of the good fortune of Sgt. Gabriel Galindo of the division's Staff Judge Advocate office.

Galindo sent a letter to the Packers, and Favre, telling them he's deployed ... blah, blah, blah ... and could he get, you know, a little love from the hometown team and its star quarterback?

Less than two months later, Galindo's prayers were answered with an autographed 8 x 10 photo of our hero. (FYI – The color shot costs more than \$100 at most sports memorabilia collector's sites on the web!)

How's that for a class act! Go Packers! (And ... uh, Galindo, I honestly have no idea who took off with the photograph after the photo shoot. Honest!)



By Sgt. Christina Rockhill, 1CD PAO

Sgt. Gabriel Galindo from the division headquarters' Staff Judge Advocate office proudly displays an autographed photograph of Green Bay Packer quarterback Brett Favre.